## ATTACHMENT – Amendments to Claims

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.*

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~protocol~~ method for entering, disabling/erasing scrambled data access rights transmitted from a transmission center to at least one descrambling terminal to which is linked an access control module device equipped with a security processor, these access rights being entered in said access control module, said scrambled data being subjected to an access control by periodic transmission of access control messages, conveying access criteria and a cryptogram of a control word that is changed periodically and encrypted using an operation key, then, in each security processor, conditionally upon verifying ~~the true value~~ the validity of at least one entered access right against said access criteria, by decrypting the cryptogram of the control word using said operation key, transmitting ~~the restored control word~~ said control word to the descrambling terminal and descrambling said scrambled data using said restored control word, characterized in that it consists at least in:

[[-]] forming any access right entered in said access control module device as a set of independent variables and linked variables comprising at least, in addition to an access right identification variable, an entered access right action date variable and a status variable which can have one of three encoded values signifying access right enabled, access right disabled, access right erased;

[[-]] transmitting from said transmission center to each descrambling terminal and to the access control module device linked to ~~the latter~~ said method at least one access right management message, said message comprising at least, in addition to an entered access right identification variable, an action date variable and a status assignment variable, the encoded value corresponding to an enabled access right, a disabled access right or an erased access right; and on receipt of said access right management message, at said access control module,

[[-]] assigning said action date to the entered access right corresponding to the access right identification variable of said access right management message, and

[[-]] allocating said status assignment variable corresponding to an enabled access right, a disabled access right or an erased access right to said status variable of said corresponding entered access right.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, for an operation to enter a defined access right in an access control module, said action date variable of said access right management message corresponds to an entry date, and the status assignment variable is an encoded value corresponding to an enabled right, the entry operation consisting in entering, into said access control module, a defined access right, the action date of which is that of said entry date and for which the status variable is that of said status assignment variable and corresponds to an enabled right.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that, prior to the entry operation ~~proper~~ of said defined access right, ~~the latter~~ said method consists in addition, in said access control module,

[[-]] in ~~verifying the existence~~ checking a presence, in said access control module, of an entered access right corresponding to said defined access right and for which the status variable corresponds to the encoded value signifying right enabled or right disabled, and on a positive response to said verification:

[[-]] in verifying the posteriority nature of said action date variable corresponding to an entry date in relation to the action date of said identical access right and on a positive response to said posteriority nature verification,

[[-]] performing an update of said action date variable of said identical access right, based on said action date corresponding to an entry date,

[[-]] assigning, to said status variable of said identical access right, the encoded value corresponding to an enabled right, allowing said entered access right to be enabled.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that, on a negative response to said verification of the existence of an identical access right, ~~the latter~~ said method ~~consists in addition in performing an update by~~ including an update of said identical access right with said first entry of this access right, for which the action date corresponds to the entry date.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, for an operation to disable an access right entered in an access control module, said action date variable of said access right management message corresponds to a disabling date and the status assignment variable is an encoded value corresponding to a disabled right, the disabling operation consisting in assigning, to said status variable of said entered access right, said encoded value corresponding to a disabled right and updating said action date of said entered access right based on said disabling date.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that, prior to the disabling operation ~~proper~~, ~~the latter~~ said method consists in:

[[-]] verifying the existence, on said access control module, of an entered access right corresponding to said access right of said management message;

[[-]] verifying the posteriority nature of said action date variable corresponding to a disabling date with respect to said action date variable of said entered right.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, for any status assignment variable of the management message corresponding to an erased access right and for any access right entered in the ~~access control module~~ access control module device for which the status variable corresponds to an enabled right or a disabled right, ~~the latter~~ said method consists at least in:

[[-]] an update of the action date of said entered right;

[[-]] an allocation, to said status variable of said entered access right, of said status assignment variable of the management message corresponding to an erased access right, said allocation operation forming, for said entered access right, a virtual erasure operation.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the update and virtual erasure steps of said entered access right are preceded by a step to verify the existence, on said access control module, of an entered access right corresponding to said access right of said management message, and a step to verify the posteriority of said action date variable of said management message with respect to said action date variable of said entered access right.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said virtual erasure operation is followed by a physical erasure operation of said access right.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that said physical erasure operation is immediate or deferred.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that, for an entered access right for which the status assignment variable corresponds to an erased access right, ~~the latter~~ said method also consists in performing an update by first entry of this access right, said access right being assigned a status variable corresponding to an enabled right and for which the action date corresponds to the entry date.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that, for an entered access right for which the status assignment variable corresponds to an erased access right, ~~the latter~~ said method also consists in performing an update

by first entry of this access right, said access right being assigned a status variable corresponding to a disabled right and for which the action date corresponds to the entry date.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that, on a negative response to said verification of the existence of a corresponding access right, ~~the latter~~ said method also consists in performing an update by first entry of this access right, for which the action date corresponds to a disabling date, said access right being assigned a status variable corresponding to a disabled right.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A module~~ An access control module device controlling access to scrambled data transmitted from a transmission center to at least one descrambling terminal to which is linked ~~this~~ said access control module device, characterized in that it comprises, entered in the memory of this access control module, at least one access right formed by a set of independent variables and of linked variables, comprising at least, in addition to an entered access right identification variable and a validity dates variable, an entered access right action date variable and a status variable ~~that can have~~ having one of three encoded values signifying access right enabled, access right disabled or access right erased.

15. (Currently Amended) The access control module device as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that since said access control module device comprises a microprocessor card fitted with a security processor and a secured non-volatile programmable memory, said at least one access right is entered in said secured non-volatile programmable memory.

16. (Canceled)